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however the merit of being the first discoverers of this useful application of moss.

Dr. Westring of Stockholm, many years ago, noticed it among other properties of mosses, and lichens, particularly relative to dyeing, in a paper inserted in the Transactions of the Royal Academy of Stockholm, wherein he states that they are used in several places for stuffing chairs, and sofas, instead of horse hair, and that the kinds most proper for this purpose are the *Lich Chalybeiformis*, *L. Barbatus*, and *L. Plicatus*.

Improved File for letters and receipts.

Trans. Soc. Arts.

A voucher cannot be disengaged from the common file without defacing it, by cutting it off, or by removing many others to get at it: and to return it to its proper place, is attended with more trouble and inconvenience. All this is avoided by the file contrived by Mr. White, which is perfectly simple and efficacious, and can cost little more than the common file.

Mr. White's file consists of a small metal tube, just large enough to admit the wire of the file, with a convex circular plate soldered to its lower end, to keep the papers from slipping off, in the centre of which a hollow screw is tapped to admit a screw on the lower end of the wire; which is of the usual size, and length, and hooked and pointed at its top in the common manner to receive the papers.

When any paper is wanted from this file (instead of taking off those above it, which cannot be replaced without much loss of time and trouble) the papers above it are to be slipped up towards the hook, the wire must then be unscrewed and removed with the papers upon it. The paper wanted may then be taken off the tube; the wire be put into its former place and screwed fast, and the other papers be drawn down the tube as before. To return the voucher, the same operation is to be repeated, and the voucher restored to its proper place.

The upper edges of the tube should be made conical with sharp edges,

and to fit the wire closely to admit papers to pass over it with more facility.

The Society of Arts presented Mr. White, with their silver medal for this invention.

Remarks.... This contrivance will be found very useful in counting houses and offices. Some for the same purpose, that is effected by it, paste their receipts in books; but a less troublesome way is to pin them together in the order of their dates, and fold them together in the manner of eastern manuscripts, and keep them in port folios.

Wire files cannot be conveniently put in drawers, where all vouchers of consequence should be kept, it may therefore be of use to state a method of applying the principle of the above invention to a flexible file of silk bobbin or cord, which has just occurred to the writer; which is to have in the middle of the bobbin a small cylindrical clasp, such as is used for ladies' necklaces, which will then admit the papers to be separated and united again on it in the same manner as on Mr. White's file, above described.

Cheap method of teaching to write, by copies engraved on slates, by Mr. T. Warren of Buckingham street, London.

Trans. Soc. Arts.

These slates have horizontal parallel lines engraved on them at regular intervals, similar to those ruled on common writing copies; one of the small letters of the alphabet is engraved at the head of every second space, as a copy which the writer is to imitate. The numerals from one to nine are engraved in a reversed position in the intervals between the lines for the letters, so that on turning the slate, the learner may copy the figures in the same manner. In each case he may either copy the character at the head of each line, or may continue to copy a single one on all the lines.

Larger slates are prepared with examples in addition and subtraction;—these lessons may be varied at the pleasure of the master, by the methods pointed out in the following

communication from Mr. Warren to the Society of Arts.

To the Society for the encouragement of arts manufactures, &c.

The great utility of the engraved slates in instructing the children of the poor, particularly in the art of writing, has been amply proved in several respectable charity schools in Bury St. Edmund's, and in many private families, for the last nine months.

This invention occasions great saving in writing-paper, pens, ink, and labour in teaching.

In making use of these slates, the slate pencil is recommended to be placed in a quill, and to be held exactly after the manner of a pen, by which means the hand is made pliant preparatory to the use of that instrument on paper.

Small slates without capitals, which are the sort recommended to schools in general, are sold for fifteen shillings the dozen, by one of which all the children of a family may learn to write, and with care it will last for ages. Small slates with capital letters, are sold at one guinea the dozen. They may be procured from messrs. Champante and Whitrow, Jewry-street, and from messrs. W. and C. Child, lower Thames-street, London.

The method recommended in making use of the small slate, with the two additional sums engraved upon it, is to cut off with the pencil the three lower lines for the first sum, then four lines, then five, &c. by which means the two sums answer the purposes of many; this slate has been proved to be of great use in schools. The large slate, with the first four rules of arithmetic engraved on it, is recommended as a useful article in private families, as by it children may be exercised in those rules with very little trouble.

An addition sum may be cut upon a slate, so as to effect the purpose of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, by setting the lines at a considerable distance from each other, and making the upper numbers the largest for subtracting, but it makes rather a complex article, and examples for children cannot be too plain.

Some slates have been prepared with designs engraved upon them for learning to draw from, but this is not considered as a very important article.

The Society of Arts, &c. voted Mr. Warren their silver medal for this communication.

Caution to Apothecaries and Druggists, against a dangerous poison, sold for Glass of Antimony, which latter is used in preparing Tartar emetic, and other antimonial medicines.

Phil. Mag. March 1810.

The editor of the Philosophical Magazine states that he is indebted to a respectable manufacturing chemist, Luke Howard esq. of Plaiston, for the following information which he considers himself imperiously called upon to circulate as widely as possible.

A very large quantity of glass of lead has by some means, found its way into the London market, as glass of antimony. This criminal imposition is sure to be detected, in the operation to which glass of antimony is chiefly applied, the making of emetic tartar; but it is highly needful to the consumers of smaller quantities, as in the *ritrum ceratum*, and *vinum antimonii*, that the following distinctive characters of the two be extensively circulated, in order that those, who may have bought glass of antimony within 12 or 18 months past, may assure themselves of its being genuine. *The public health and even the lives of some patients, may be considered as at stake on the occasion.*

Glass of antimony has a rich brown or reddish colour, with the usual transparency of coloured glasses. The glass of lead in question is of a deeper and duller colour against the light, is much less transparent, and even in some samples quite opaque.

The specific gravity of glass of antimony never exceeds 4.95; that of glass of lead is 6.95; or in round numbers, the comparative weights (for the same bulk) are as five to seven.

Let twenty grains of the true antimonial glass be rubbed fine in a